

# NEWSLETTER



June 15 -17, 2022

Oak Island Resort & Conference Centre, Western Shore

AMANS is pleased to be hosting our 2022 Spring Conference in-person in the South Shore region. Our Spring Conference is one of the best places to reconnect and build networks with municipal administrators from across the Province to discuss issues impacting your municipality.

We are excited to share that our opening keynotes will be Peter Chapman, SKUFood & Alain Bossé, The Kilted Chef. They will share culinary skills and insights into our food industry to help us save money and eat better.

[\\*\\* Check out the program and register here!](#)

## Conference Prices

Early Bird (before 4:30 p.m. May 27, 2022): Member \$375 Non-Member \$450  
Regular (after May 27, 2022): Member \$425 Non-Member \$500

## Refund Policy

The deadline to cancel registrations is Wednesday, June 1, at 4:30 p.m. (AST). No refunds will be given after this date, although substitutions will be allowed.



Spring Conference Presenting Sponsor:

# Save the Date: AMANS Annual Fall Conference

September 20 – 23, 2022

Holiday Inn Sydney – Waterfront (300 Esplanade, Sydney)

## Memberships for 2022-2023

There are 234 Full Members, 77 Associate Members and 4 Corporate Members registered for 2022-2023.

20 new members joined AMANS for 2022-2023 year. This includes:

Lewis Chetwynd: Town of Shelburne

Martha Horsman: Town of Mahone Bay

Heather McCallum: Town of Lunenburg

Marissa Jordan: Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Allan Bragg: Victoria County

Charlotte MacDonald: Municipality of the County of Inverness

Peter McCracken: Municipality of the County of Colchester

Heather Fox-Perry, Katelyn Inglis, Linda Bent, Janice Young and Angela Anderson: Annapolis County

Erin Lowe: Municipality of Chester

Tiffany Ratchford: Cape Breton Regional Municipality

CAO Brock McDougall: Village of Port Williams

Scott Surette: Municipality of the District of Argyle

Kayla Byrne and Emily Kathan: Town of Bridgewater

Nick Langley: Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Steve Whynacht: Region of Queens Municipality

## Janice Wentzell, AMANS Executive Director

I would like to take the time to acknowledge the pending retirement of Janice Wentzell as Executive Director of the Association of Municipal Administrators for the Province of Nova Scotia (AMANS). Janice will be retiring in June after over 30 years of service as our Executive Director. I still remember my first interaction with Janice as a newly hired employee of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. From the moment I met her, I could tell she was special and had such a passion for the AMA and municipal government in general. During my time as a member of the AMA Board of Directors, while serving on the Executive, and now as AMANS President, I have seen first-hand Janice's consistent commitment to the growth of the Association of Municipal Administrators. Her unwavering work ethic and belief in the good work that can be accomplished at the municipal level have served as the foundation of the evolution of the AMA into an organization that is respected by all who interact with it. AMANS has become a leading voice on matters of municipal education and policy, and without question, we have Janice to thank for that. I wish Janice well on her much-deserved retirement.

John MacKinnon, Deputy CAO, CBRM

## 2022 Municipal Salary Survey

Data collection for the 2022 Municipal Salary Survey began Monday April 25, 2022, and will end on Monday May 30, 2022. The AMA Municipal Salary Survey is a biennial survey that provides municipalities and villages with reliable, comparable salary and employment information. The AMA Board encourages all municipalities and villages to participate in the 2022 AMA Municipal Salary Survey.

The survey questionnaire can be accessed at:

[2022 Municipal Salary Survey](#).



## Come Celebrate Wellness in May Special Edition

The Month of May is devoted to learning about, talking about, and exploring ways to support our mental health and physical well-being. Whether you are working from home or in the office, we have been presented with many challenges and changes over the past couple of years. We all must foster and maintain good mental health (for ourselves and others) and physical health practices and ensure we have the skills and resources to cope with life's ups and downs.

The Municipal Wellness Program has organized various events for you to participate in and share with others in your workplace. You can find additional information on any events highlighted below at [Municipal Wellness Website - Wellness in May](#).

## AMANS Launches Municipal Accessibility Program

The AMA Board is extremely excited to be partnering with the Accessibility Directorate, Department of Justice on a new program to help Nova Scotia municipalities and villages implement and meet their commitments in their accessibility plans. The Directorate has made it possible for the AMA to create a new position which will assist municipalities and villages to strengthen their capacity by creating tools, resources, and educational opportunities to support Nova Scotia municipalities and villages to improve accessibility. The NSFM and Association of Nova Scotia Villages are also partners in this exciting new program. The Municipality Accessibility Support Coordinator will be hired this Spring and will start to reach out to villages and municipalities to determine where the support gaps lie.

## Job Postings

### Municipal Accessibility Support Position

The Accessibility Directorate was projected to end the 2021/22 fiscal year with excess funding. As a result, the Accessibility Directorate approached AMA to discuss utilizing the funding to create a dedicated Municipal Accessibility Support Coordinator position. The Directorate has \$250,000 to support the project and it is anticipated that this funding will provide support for 18 to 24 months.

This investment and position offer an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and provide dedicated resources for improving accessibility in municipalities and villages. Lessons learned from this initiative will inform future efforts to support municipalities and villages and other prescribed public sector bodies. The first task of the project will be to hire a Municipal Accessibility Support Coordinator Position. The job advertisement can be viewed at [Municipal Accessibility Support Coordinator](#).

Town of Bridgewater:  
[Director of Engineering](#)  
[Development Service Technologist](#)

Town of Lunenburg:  
[Accounts Payable Officer](#)

Richmond County: [CAO](#)

NSFM: [Infrastructure and Sustainability Officer](#)

Town of Annapolis and Town of Middleton:  
[Regional Director of Public Works](#)

Town of Lunenburg:  
[Accounts Payable Officer](#)

## MWV Partner Sites

[Town of Amherst](#)  
[Town of Antigonish](#)  
[Town of Berwick](#)  
[Town of Digby](#)  
[Town of Lunenburg](#)  
[Town of Oxford](#)  
[Town of Pictou](#)  
[Town of Shelburne](#)  
[Town of Stellarton](#)  
[Town of Stewiacke](#)  
[Town of Trenton](#)  
[Town of Truro](#)  
[Town of Wolfville](#)  
[Town of Yarmouth](#)

[Municipality of the District of Argyle](#)  
[Municipality of the District of Barrington](#)  
[Cape Breton Regional Municipality](#)  
[Municipality of the County of Colchester](#)  
[Municipality of Cumberland](#)  
[Municipality of Digby](#)  
[Municipality of the District of Lunenburg](#)  
[Municipality of the County of Richmond](#)  
[Municipality of the District of Shelburne](#)  
[Municipality of the District of St. Mary's](#)  
[West Hants Regional Municipality](#)

[Village of Bible Hill](#)  
[Village of Chester](#)  
[Village of Greenwood](#)

[Acadia First Nations](#)  
[AMANS](#)  
[AMANS Conference](#)  
[Cape Breton Region Police Service](#)  
[Centre 200](#)

[Lunenburg County REMO](#)  
[Mentoring Plus](#)  
[Municipal Development Officers Association of](#)  
[Nova Scotia \(MDOANS\)](#)  
[Municipal Website Venture](#)  
[Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities](#)  
[Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation](#)  
[NS Municipal Wellness Program](#)  
[Recreation Nova Scotia](#)  
[Truro Business Park](#)  
[Windsor / West Hants \(Stronger Region\)](#)  
[Your Tatamagouche](#)

## Municipal Website Venture

The Municipal Website Venture (MWV) started operating 15 years ago in May 2007. Today the program continues to serve communities and public sector organizations in Nova Scotia.

At its inception the 14 members of the then eGovernment Committee at Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations decided to create the MWV with a mandate to improve the quality of municipal websites in Nova Scotia. The vision was to bring our individual and collective web presences to the leading edge.

As early as 2008 the MWV had gained a name for itself. The following excerpt from an article written by Ivan Smith, in the Kings County Register, conveys the values applied to website development as practiced by the MWV.

*Every month, I look at 200 or 300 websites, many of them designed and operated by government departments or agencies. I have not seen any that offer serious competition to the new Berwick website, for user-friendliness and overall good design. May this example be studied by all those who design websites for governments, federal or provincial or municipal. Great work Berwick!*

The MWV continues to be active building and deploying websites. Most recently new websites were launched for the [Town of Pictou](#) and the [Town of Shelburne](#).

Other websites that are in development are with the Town of New Glasgow and the Town of Oxford, and we expect to start developing a new website for Recreation Nova Scotia in the weeks to come.

For more information about what's happening with the Municipal Website Venture please contact Les Coleman at [coleman@amans.ca](mailto:coleman@amans.ca).

## Municipal Insurance Oversight Committee

The NSFAM and AMA are re-establishing an oversight committee for the group insurance program currently underwritten by Intact Insurance. The AMA representatives appointed by the Board to the Municipal Insurance Oversight Committee are Danielle Cooper, Town of Amherst; Mike Hatfield, Municipality of the District of East Hants; and Jeff Sunderland, Municipality of the District of Digby.

## NSFM Service Exchange Renegotiation and Municipal Government Act Review Committee

The NSFM has struck a committee with a mandate to provide an organizing hub for NSFM's involvement in both the Service Exchange renegotiation and review of the MGA. AMA representatives on the committee are Erin Beaudin, CAO, Town of Wolfville; Jacques Dubé, CAO, HRM; Dan McDougall, CAO, Municipality of the District of Chester; and Marie Walsh, CAO, CBRM. The AMA representatives serve on the committee as non-voting, ex-officio members.

The Committee will compile and analyze current priorities as well as priorities recorded in past negotiations and reviews. This Committee will also identify pertinent connections between parallel processes of the Service Exchange Renegotiation and the MGA Review and will engage with the provincial government in a collaborative fashion. The province has indicated that it views this group as a municipal sounding board.

## Announcing New President & CEO At Safety Services Nova Scotia



Jackie Norman has announced her retirement after 40 years at Safety Services Nova Scotia (SSNS), the last 20 as President & CEO. "It is with bittersweet emotion that I announce leaving this organization that has offered me such a rewarding career and great opportunities to grow and learn." states Norman. "Most of all I will miss my colleagues! The organization is sustainable and set up for success - I expect that under new leadership, Safety Services Nova Scotia will continue to prosper and grow."

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the new President & CEO, Craig Whitehead. Craig moved from Wales to Nova Scotia 9 years ago and has owned his own various companies with the safety and construction world. Craig has been in many high-level operations and managerial roles as well as been commemorated with a Business Excellence Award. Whether by creating support systems for staff and community members, an award-winning college teacher for over 8 years, or being part of Workers' Compensation Board of NS, Craig has always been at the forefront of providing health and safety solutions to his community. Craig enthusiastically accepts this position and looks forward to making a difference by providing quality safety solutions in road, workplace, and community safety in Nova Scotia.

